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N. Y. General Bible Association of
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PROCEEDINGS,

CONSTITUTION, AND ADDRESS,

OF THE

NEW-YORK

GENERAL BIBLE ASSOCIATION
OF FRIENDS.

MAHLON DAY, PRINTER,

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Nov. 15 1950

Peabody Fund

PROCEEDINGS, &c.

AT a meeting of Delegates from the several Auxiliary Bible Associations of Friends, within the limits of the New-York Yearly Meeting, together with other Friends who are interested in the concern, held, (pursuant to notice contained in the following circular) at New-York, on the evening of the 26th of Fifth Month, 1834, THOMAS COCK was appointed Clerk of the meeting, and JOSEPH C. HATHAWAY, Assistant.

The following Delegates were present—from

New-York Auxiliary—Samuel Parsons, Mahlon Day, Wm. Wagstaff, Henry Hinsdale, and Thomas Cock.

Purchase—Richard Mott, Jacob McKeel, Abrm. I. Underhill.

Ferrisburg—Wm. Keese, 2d, Daniel Huntington, Elizabeth Hoag; Stephen Keese.

Scipio—Joseph Tallcot, Abel Thomas, Wm. Carman.

Cornwall—Daniel P. Birdsall, Samuel Adams, Phebe Tilson, Anna Adams.

Farmington—Asa B. Smith, John Ellison, Gideon Herenden, Ruth Durfee, Beersheba Herenden.

The subject of a more general diffusion of the Holy Scriptures among the members of our religious society, claimed the lively interest and attention of the Meeting, and many pertinent remarks were made; and in order to promote this desirable object, it was thought best, that a

General Association be formed, to meet annually at this place, to be attended by Delegates from the several Auxiliaries within this Yearly Meeting, and by all Friends who take an interest in this important subject.

Thomas Cock, Samuel Parsons, Asa B. Smith, Joseph Tallcot, and Joseph C. Hathaway, are appointed to prepare an essay of such Rules and Regulations as may be deemed necessary for the due organization and government of such an Association. Also, to prepare essays of Circulars addressed to the several Auxiliaries, and to the members of those Quarterly Meetings in which no Auxiliaries have been formed, and present to a future sitting.

Adjourned to meet on 5th day evening next, at 8 o'clock.

To the Auxiliary Bible Association of Friends in New-York.

DEAR FRIENDS,

When we reflect upon the success that has in some measure attended our endeavors to promote the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, we feel a desire that those of our brethren who have not yet entered into this field of labor, may be induced to co-operate with us in the great and good work of disseminating the Inspired Volume, and of placing a copy of it in the hands of every individual member of our society who can read.

The deficiencies amongst us are much greater than were anticipated, but are now supplied as fast as made known.

We are glad that you have an Auxiliary in your Meeting, and it would be gratifying to see one in every Quarterly Meeting.

By the last Annual Report of the Parent Association at Philadelphia, it appears there are yet but five Auxiliaries within the limits of this Yearly Meeting. New-York, Ferrisburg, Young Street, Farmington, and Scipio.

We believe there would be an advantage arising from a General Meeting of the Auxiliaries, (at the time of our next Yearly Meeting,) to be attended by Delegates from each Auxiliary, and from the members of those Quarterly Meetings in which no Auxiliaries have been formed ; and we would invite you to co-operate with us by appointing suitable persons to represent your Auxiliary at such a Meeting.

This would give a fair opportunity for an interchange of sentiment, receiving interesting information, and devising measures for enlisting Friends more generally in this important work.

Our efforts have been attended with an increased perusal and study of the Holy Scriptures, particularly among the junior class of members, and we think we have abundant reason to be stimulated to continued exertion.

The cause in which we are engaged, is one of such deep and vital interest to the welfare of our society, that it is to be hoped none who have put their "hand to the plough will look back," for although much has been done, much remains to do, before every individual in our Society who can read, will be furnished with a copy of the Bible : "the only standard by which the deficiency in the supply of the Scriptures is to be measured."

With desires that you may persevere in the work which you have commenced, we are your Friends,

ISAAC HATHAWAY,

ASA B. SMITH,

J. C. HATHAWAY,

Corresponding Committee of Farmington Aux. Bible Ass'n.

FARMINGTON, 3D MONTH, 6, 1834.

ADJOURNED MEETING.

Fifth Day Evening, the 29th of the month, the Delegates from the several auxiliaries, (together with other Friends interested,) met pursuant to adjournment.

The Committee appointed at the last Meeting reported the following Rules and Regulations, which being considered, were approved and adopted. They also produced the following Circular to Auxiliaries, and the following addresses which were approved and adopted. MAHLON DAY was appointed Agent, and THOMAS COCK, Clerk.

Samuel Parsons, Samuel Adams, Joseph Tallcot, Asa B. Smith, Sarah C. Hawhurst, Sarah Tallcot, and Ber-sheba Herenden, were appointed to visit friends in those Quarterly Meetings which have not yet formed Auxiliaries, and afford such encouragement and assistance as they may be enabled to, in carrying the designs of the Parent Institution at Philadelphia into effect, and report next year.

Adjourned to meet at the time appointed next year.

Rules and Regulations for the government of the New-York General Bible Association of Friends.

Believing that the formation of a General Bible Association of Friends, in New-York Yearly Meeting, would have a tendency to promote an increased circulation of the Holy Scriptures, by calling the attention of Friends more generally to the subject, and by opening a more easy and accessible channel of communication with the Parent Association at Philadelphia, it is agreed that such an Association be now formed under the following rules,

to be called—The General Bible Association of Friends within the limits of New-York Yearly Meeting.

Rule 1. All members of the Auxiliary Bible Association of Friends in this Yearly Meeting, shall be considered as members of this Association.

2. The Officers of this Association shall be a Secretary and Clerk.

3. It shall be the duty of the Clerk and Agent to receive all orders and reports of the Auxiliaries and forward them to the Parent Association at Philadelphia, and to transmit all monies received, and procure Bibles and Testaments agreeably to the directions of the Auxiliaries, and lay before the Annual Meetings of this Association, minutes of all their proceedings and correspondence, and to make a full report of the state of the Auxiliaries as far as information can be obtained.

4. The Association shall meet annually in New-York on Second Day Evening of Yearly Meeting week, at 8 o'clock.

5. The Auxiliary Bible Association of Friends in this Yearly Meeting are requested to appoint Delegates to attend the Annual Meetings of this Association, and to forward their orders and reports to our Agent, in order that they may be sent to the Parent Institution at Philadelphia, at least one month previous to its Annual Meeting, so that the Books may be in readiness at the time of our Yearly Meeting.

*Circular addressed to New-York, Scipio, Farmington,
Cornwall, Duanesburg, Young-Street, Purchase, and
Ferrisburgh Auxiliary Bible Associations of Friends,
by the General Bible Association of Friends in New-
York Yearly Meeting.*

DEAR FRIENDS,

In deliberating upon the important subject which has called us together, it was deemed expedient, for its further advancement, that a General Association be formed,—the Constitution whereof is herewith transmitted.

We doubt not you will find, upon reviewing your past labors, in this cause of christian benevolence, much reason to be stimulated to increased exertion, and much cause of thankfulness to Him who has thus graciously bestowed upon man the inestimable volume of inspiration.

We hope none of you will feel disposed to relax in your endeavors, or for a moment indulge the thought, that your labors are nearly at an end. We consider the work as but in its infancy. It is one of that importance which requires the continued persevering efforts of every christian. We are daily engaged in those pursuits which minister to our bodily wants, and are in a great measure confined to the things of time, and does it not become us, who are professing to look beyond the transitory scenes of this world, to devote a portion of the time and talents, which we are permitted to occupy, to those things which belong to our immortal interests? There is no other outward means that have been given to man, so well calculated to guide the inquiring mind in the path of christian rectitude, as the Holy Scriptures. There is no other

outward means by which the christian can obtain a knowledge of that holy religion which was introduced into the world by our blessed Redeemer, and which has been appointed as the blessed means of salvation. It is in the perusal of this Sacred Volume, that the pious mind is directed to that living fountain from whence issue the waters of life, and from whence that hope and consolation is derived which reaches beyond the grave.

It is to be hoped that you will go on in the good work which you have begun, and that your zeal and devotedness therein, will be commensurate with the magnitude and importance of the subject, and we doubt not but your labors, if properly conducted, will meet with Divine approbation, and be crowned with a blessing.

Signed by direction, and on behalf of said Association,
THOMAS COCK, *Clerk.*

5th Mo. 29, 1834.

P. S.—We would call your attention to the queries addressed to Auxiliaries by the Parent Association, and request you to make full inquiries, and report particularly thereon, in order that the true situation of our Society, in this important particular may be fully known ; also, to report such other information as may be deemed necessary or useful.

*At a Meeting of the General Bible Association of Friends,
held at New-York, 5th mo. 29, 1834, the following
address to the Members of those Quarterly Meetings in
which no Auxiliaries have been formed, was adopted.*

DEAR FRIENDS,

The vital importance of the subject is a sufficient apology for addressing you. Our Religious Society has always borne a faithful testimony, to the authenticity, authority and inestimable value of the Holy Scriptures, and have always held them to be the only fit outward judge and test in matters of faith and doctrine: and it is under a full sense of their undiminished value, that we take the liberty of calling your attention to this interesting subject.

By statements made in this meeting by the delegates from the Auxiliaries, it appears that the lack of the Holy Scriptures amongst our members is far greater than was supposed, so that although many Friends have since the organization of the Auxiliaries been supplied, yet many of our members who are capable of reading, are not yet furnished. A free communication of sentiment took place, in which much unanimity of views and feelings was manifested, affording cause to believe that as those who have entered into this labor of love, steadily persevere, it will, with a blessing, essentially promote the best interest of our religious society, and we cordially desire the co-operation of our friends who have not yet taken an active part in the cause.

With a view to encourage the formation of Auxiliaries, and to supply them at once with the means of gratuitous distribution, the managers of the Parent Institution at

Philadelphia, have agreed to present each new Association with ten copies of the Reference Bible, and we sincerely hope that all our Quarterly Meetings will early embrace this generous offer.

The frequent and serious perusal of the Holy Scriptures has ever been affectionately urged upon the members of our Religious Society, not only by its discipline, but very often in Minutes of advice from our Yearly Meeting; and how, we would ask, can this very necessary and important duty be performed, if our members are not duly supplied with the Sacred Volume.

Painful as is the fact, it cannot, and ought not to be concealed, that wherever a full investigation has been made, lamentable deficiencies have been found to exist; and this we fear is but too sure an index that there are deficiencies in those places where proper inquiries have not been instituted.

A single copy of the Bible in a large family, and that perhaps of an unwieldy size or illegible type, is not deemed sufficient; and it cannot reasonably be expected that when the Holy Scriptures are presented to our children in so forbidding a form, that they will be likely to take much satisfaction in their perusal.

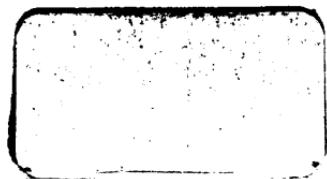
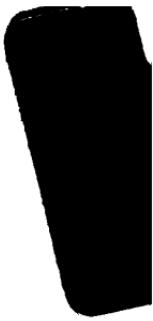
If we look at the first budding of scepticism and infidelity in the human mind, we shall see them manifested in an indifference to, and neglect of the Inspired Volume, until the mind is led step by step to cavil at it, its wholesome doctrines, and finally to deny its divine origin; and unless our children are made familiar with the records of that holy religion by which we profess to be governed, and taught to reverence the doctrines and precepts of our blessed Redeemer contained in Holy Writ, we cannot

suppose that they will come up as faithful standard bearers in our Society.

We do not believe that the Bible alone is sufficient to make us Christians, and prepare us for the various duties of the Church; but we do believe that vital piety will never mark the character of a people by whom the Holy Scriptures are neglected, which "were given forth by the Holy Spirit of God, and are profitable for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works, and are able to make wise unto salvation through faith in Jesus Christ."

Signed by direction and on behalf of said Association.

THOMAS COCK, *Clerk.*



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